

3. (UNAMENDED) A function expanding device according to claim 1, wherein said operation part may power on at least part of the electronic hardware.

4. (UNAMENDED) A function expanding device according to claim 2, wherein said control part may transmit operational information of the operation part to the electronic hardware.

5. (ONCE AMENDED) A function expanding device according to claim 1, wherein said second connection part is connectable to a port replicator, and connectable to the electronic hardware via the port replicator.

6. (UNAMENDED) A function expanding device according to claim 1, wherein said second connection part has a cable.

7. (UNAMENDED) A function expanding device according to claim 1, further comprising
a display part which displays a status of the unit.

8. (UNAMENDED) A function expanding device according to claim 1, wherein the unit is selected from a group including a music CD drive, a CD-ROM drive, a DVD-ROM drive, and an LS-120 drive, and said first connection part has a bay structure connectable compatibly to either drive in the group.

9. (UNAMENDED) A function expanding device according to claim 1, wherein said second connector has an IDE interface and a music interface.

10. (TWICE AMENDED) A port replicator detachably connectable to a function expanding device which includes a first connection part connectable to a unit which expands a function of electronic hardware, a second connection part connectable to the electronic hardware, and an operation part that enables a user to drive the unit independent of driving the unit by the electronic hardware, said port replicator comprising:

a third connection part connectable to the second connection part of the function expanding device; and

a fourth connection part connectable to the electronic hardware.

11. (TWICE AMENDED) A function expanding device comprising:

a first connection part connectable selectively to a plurality of units each of which expands a function of electronic hardware;

a second connection part connectable to the electronic hardware;

a third connection part connectable to the electronic hardware, said third connection part being used to connect at least one of said plurality of units to the electronic hardware, and said second connection part being used to connect the rest of said plurality of units to the electronic hardware ; and

a housing forming said first, second and third connection parts.

12. (UNAMENDED) A function expanding device according to claim 11, wherein said second and third connection parts are used to connect to the electronic hardware the unit connectable to the first connection part, but connect different units to the electronic hardware.

13. (UNAMENDED) A function expanding device according to claim 11, wherein said second connection part is used to connect to the electronic hardware at least one of said plurality of units connectable to the first connection part, and

wherein said third connection part is used to connect to the electronic hardware at least one of the units connectable to the first connection part, which unit is different from the unit connectable by the second connection part.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted after the filing of a Continued Prosecution Application on February 3, 2003 in response to the objections and rejections set forth in the Final Office Action mailed October 1, 2002. In that Office Action the Examiner noted that claims 1-13 were pending in the application and the Examiner rejected all claims. By this Amendment, various claims have been amended. Thus, claims 1-13 remain pending in the application. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.